

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU
SUBJ: ITU: IFRB VIEWS ON AERONAUTICAL WARC

REF: O'NEILL LETTER TO FREIDLAND, NOV 17

1. ON DEC 13, MISSION OFFICER SPOKE FIRST TO
IFRB CHAIRMAN GROMOV SEPARATELY, THEN WITH GROMOV,
IFRB VICE CHAIRMAN PERRIN AND MEMBER BERRADA TOGETHER,
CONCERNING THEIR VIEWS ABOUT PROPOSED 1978 AERONAUTICAL
WARC.

2. GROMOV EMPHASIZED THAT SUBJECT OF AERONAUTICAL WARC
HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED OFFICIALLY BY THE BOARD AND THERE
WAS THEREFORE NO BOARD POSITION ON THIS MATTER, ALTHOUGH
INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS HAD THEIR OWN VIEWS. GROMOV'S
OWN POSITION WAS RATHER NON-COMMITTAL, NOTING THAT PERRIN
WAS THE BOARD'S EXPERT ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT HE HAD
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REPRESENTED IFRB IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ICAO. INTERESTINGLY,
GROMOV MENTIONED HE HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN WITH BADALOV, USSR
DEPUTY TELECOMS MINISTER, WHO ADVISED HIM THAT SOVIET ADMINISTRATION
FIRMLY SUPPORTED HOLDING WARC IN 1978 AS NOW SCHEDULED.

3. LATER IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH GROMOV, PERRIN AND

BERRADA TOGETHER, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT LATTER TWO DID INDEED HAVE PRONOUNCED VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. BERRADA, IN FACT, WAS MOST OUTSPOKEN, TAKING VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL LINE ASCRIBED TO ITU IN SHAFER'S MEMO OF NOV 3 (THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WE ASSUME CAME FROM PERRIN). BERRADA FELT THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD IN 1977; HOWEVER POSTPONING UNTIL 1978 MEANT THAT AERONAUTICAL WARC, WHICH WOULD COST MILLIONS OF SWISS FRANCS, WOULD BE HELD JUST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO 1979 WARC, WHERE ENTIRE SUBJECT COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN THREE WEEKS BY A SEPARATE COMMITTEE. THUS HE FELT HOLDING 1978 AERO WARC WAS A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY.

4. FOR HIS PART, PERRIN DID NOT BRING UP COST FACTOR. AT OUTSET OF CONVERSATION, HE STATED THAT HE SUPPORTED WARC IN 1978 AS SCHEDULED, BUT AS DISCUSSION WENT ON, IT BECAME OBVIOUS HE FULLY BACKED BERRADA'S VIEWS. IN ADDITION HE ADDED THAT HE WAS DISMAYED AT THE POOR PREPARATION BY ICAO FOR CONFERENCE; AS EVIDENCED AT SEPT MEETING; HE NOTED THAT IN ONE COMMITTEE, ICAO WAS STUDYING ALLOCATION OF INDIVIDUAL FREQUENCIES EVEN BEFORE THE PHILOSOPHY OF HOW TO APPORTION FREQUENCIES HAD BEEN CONSIDERED. STRESSING HIS VIEWS WERE PERSONAL AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF BOARD, PERRIN RECALLED HE HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF AERO WARC FROM 1977 TO 1978; BUT SINCE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO DO SO OVER HIS OBJECTIONS, HE HAD COME TO SHARE BERRADA'S VIEW THAT 1978 TIME FRAME WAS TOO CLOSE TO 1979 WARC AND THAT MATTER HAD BEST BE HANDLED THERE RATHER THAN AT A SEPARATE 1978 CONFERENCE.

5. REGARDING QUESTION OF APPROPRIATENESS OF BOARD PUSHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS VIEWS, BERRADA IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT GENERAL SECRETARIAT DOES SO CONSTANTLY AND THAT HE SEES NO REASON FOR IFRB NOT DOING SO AS WELL. WHILE PERRIN AND GROMOV WERE NOT WILLING TO GO QUITE SO FAR, PERRIN SAID IF BOARD HAD A POSITION AND IF ITS VIEWS WERE SOLICITED, HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN IFRB'S MAKING ITS POSITION KNOWN EVEN IF IT CONFLICTED WITH THAT OF OTHER ORGANS. PERRIN ALSO NOTED THAT IF HIS VIEWS WERE SOLICITED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, HE WOULD RESPOND FRANKLY, ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT THE VIEWS WERE HIS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE BOARD OR THE UNION. IF QUERIED ON THIS MATTER AT 1977 COUNCIL SESSION (AS CHAIRMAN), HE WILL RESPOND FRANKLY; IF THERE IS A BOARD POSITION BY THEN, HE WILL ADVISE OF THAT POSITION; IF NOT, HE WILL PRESENT HIS OWN VIEWS IDENTIFIED AS SUCH.

6. COMMENT: WITH BOTH OF IFRB'S STRONG MEN - BERRADA AND PERRIN - FAVORING POSTPONEMENT OF AERO WARC UNTIL 1979, DEPT CAN BE SURE THAT IFRB WILL NOT HESITATE TO MAKE

ITS VIEWS KNOWN (OR INDEED, LOBBY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ITS VIEW). ACCORDINGLY, IF USG FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT KEEPING 1978 AERO WARC ON SCHEDULE, MISSION BELIEVES THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH LIKE-MINDED MEMBERS IN ADVANCE OF COUNCIL SESSION WILL BE REQUIRED, (PERHAPS STARTING AT BROADCAST SATELLITE WARC).

7. MISSION HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF THE INTERNAL IFRB REPORT ON SEPT ICAO MEETING, WHICH WAS PREPARED BY PERRIN. WE ARE AIRPOUCHING IT TO O'NEILL, EB/TD. CATTO

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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